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Editorial Board

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REPORTS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Last July, Congress passed an act (Public No. 272) providing for the publication of the Official Reports of the Supreme Court in the Government Printing Office and for their sale to the public at cost of production, including a part of the appropriation made for the maintenance of the Reporter's office. This did away with the method of publication through contracts between the Reporter and private publishing houses, which had obtained from the beginning. The last contract of that kind expired with the publication of Volume 256, which completed the reports for the October, 1920 Term. The letting of a new contract to cover the opinions of the 1921 Term was impracticable, owing to the pendency of the legislation, to the expectation that it would be enacted long before it actually was, and to definite indications that, when enacted, it would supersede the contract method.

For various reasons, incident to the ending of the old contract and the legislative change, editorial work on the opinions of the 1921 Term was seriously delayed. Time also was consumed by administrative preliminaries under the new law, and in making necessary preparations in the printing office. Notwithstanding this, however, gratifying progress has been made. The reports of these opinions will be contained in three volumes to be numbered 257, 258 and 259, all of which, it is confidently expected,

will be published in bound and pamphlet form before the close of the year.

The act provides for advance parts as well as bound volumes, when ordered by the Chief Justice. It was decided to issue a small edition of these pamphlets, four to a volume, sufficient to meet the requirements of public officials and of those lawyers who may desire them notwithstanding the delay. These, as heretofore, correspond with them in page numbering. It is believed that their publication will not delay the bound volumes, and it is known that the prompter dissemination of the opinions thus made possible will be of convenience to many, besides helping to detect errors in the plates. Three numbers, containing three-fourths of the opinions of Volume 257, have been issued at this writing. The price is twenty-five cents per number. The bound volumes will follow the corresponding pamphlets as soon as the plates can be re-examined and corrected and the tables and indexes completed and plated. According to present estimates, the price of bound volumes will be about two dollars and ten cents each, possibly a little more, possibly a little less. It will be fixed in the near future when the work has progressed somewhat further.

Especial attention is directed to the fact that it will not be necessary to send in a separate order for each pamphlet or volume purchased. Standing orders with advance deposits will be received by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., and the publication will be mailed, as issued, to the addresses given, as long as the amounts kept on deposit suffice to pay for them.